



Paul E. Helliker
Director

Department of Pesticide Regulation



Gray Davis
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Environmental
Protection Agency

Meeting Notes

Yurok Environmental Monitoring Workgroup
Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Eureka
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Participants: Kevin McKernan, Environmental Program Director, Yurok Tribe
Lori Harder, Yurok Tribe Environmental Program
Hans Voight, Yurok Tribe Fisheries Program
Ken Childs, Sr., Yurok Tribe
Jene McCovey, Yurok Tribe
Deborah McConnell, California Indian Basketweavers Association
Ron Johnson, California State University Humboldt
Susan Burdick, Yurok Tribe

Ex officio: Kean Goh, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Heather Casjens, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Pam Wofford, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Brian Finlayson, Department of Fish and Game
Dave Cavyell, Del Norte County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Jeff Dolf, Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Eric Schallon, Simpson Timber Company

Eric Schallon talked about the upcoming spray program and the schedule for the different areas of application. He said that the applications would start in the Dandy Creek area, move to the West Fork Blue Creek watershed, the McGarvey Creek watershed, and then end in Tectah Creek. Two areas, Johnson and Williams Ridge, were removed from the spring spray program over concern about downstream water users. They will be using a mixture of 2,4-D and triclopyr. Eric said the plan was to start spraying on April 16th.

A question came up about the adjuvants used in the mixture for drift control. Paul Holzberger from the Humboldt Agricultural Commissioner's Office was asked some questions about the adjuvants being used with the spray mixture. He noted that the adjuvant was a thickening agent to form larger droplets when sprayed from the helicopter. He also noted that all spray adjuvants are classified as pesticides. Kean agreed to invite someone to the next meeting who could answer many of the questions asked about the adjuvants.

The discussion then moved to the fish sampling associated with the spray program. Brian Finlayson mentioned that the fish samples can be reduced to 30 g per sample. He also noted that

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it would be best to use resident fish rather than anadromous fish. Susan expressed her concern about killing the fish for the sampling. Hans pointed out that fisheries have a fish trap at McGarvey Creek which would be just downstream a number of application areas. Sculpin are available for sampling at the site. Hans also suggested sampling fish in the West Fork Blue Creek Watershed for steelhead. It was agreed that background samples would be collected on April 13th and that Lori will do the water sampling at the same time the fish samples are collected. Pam and Heather will supply Lori with the necessary equipment. Sampling will include a background sample; a sample collected 48 hours after a significant rainfall event, and a week later. It was agreed that the time limit for rain runoff sampling following the applications would be 30 days.

Jene and Susan asked Hans whether the fisheries personnel have ever noticed dead or deformed fish and amphibians following an application. They have seen deformed fish, but the deformities have been attributed to a protozoan.

Lori then gave an update on grants that she is writing to continue the work the workgroup is doing.

The next meeting is set for July 25, 2001, at the Yurok Community Center, in Weitchpec from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm.